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Nyanza") cannot help it. But this is surely a new theory about lakes. He (Captain Burton) was perfectly aware that the rivers about the Gondokoro Plain had more to do with the annual inundations than the melted snows; but it was a sad mistake to conceive that rain falls all round the lake in very great quantities. The plateau on the east, and Unyamwezi to the south, have light rains, often droughts. The fact is, because the rains are continuous about Gondokoro, where Dr. Murie was, he would extend them all around the supposed "Victoria Nyanza:" which is distinctly not the case. The northern and southern hemispheres, so far from flooding "in unison," act upon the rule of contrary, as those who have been in both well know. Finally, with respect to the river which Dr. Murie made, from native information, to flow westward from the Tanganyika, and with respect to draining the Congo River from that, he must be allowed to differ from Dr. Murie *toto celo*. Dr. Barth never was where Dr. Murie placed him, and is the last man to admit that either the Congo or Niger derive their waters from the Tanganyika drainage. In conclusion, with regard to the dissimilarity of specific forms in fauna or flora arguing want of continuity in the lakes discovered, the speaker would refer Mr. Ball to Dr. Kirk, a man of science, who attaches some importance to the phenomenon.

The PRESIDENT congratulated the Society upon the tone of the discussion: it had been carried on in a fair and temperate spirit. He did not think that anything which had fallen from the author of the paper ought to derogate from the appeal made to them to subscribe to a monument for Captain Speke. Whatever may have been the shortcomings of that courageous traveller—whether Captain Burton was in the right and Captain Speke was in the wrong, as to the ultimate sources of the Nile,—Captain Speke, he repeated, was the first European who, with Captain Grant, had traversed Equatorial Africa from south to north; the first to discover the Lake Victoria Nyanza, and the first to follow its waters down to the mouth of the Nile. These feats well merited a memorial. As to the great question at issue, nothing but further explorations by such men as Livingstone, Kirk, or Burton, could decide it.

MR. MARKHAM then read the following extracts from a letter of Mons. P. B. Du Chaillu to Sir Roderick I. Murchison:—

"Fernand Vaz River, Aug. 20th 1864.

"My scientific instruments and watches reached me at the end of last month. I cannot express to you how happy I felt when this long-expected box came into my hands. I promised, in my last, to tell you what I intended to do. Now, do not laugh at me as a visionary when I say that I propose to strike out for the interior, and follow out the line of the equator (or thereabouts), as far as possible, until I meet some of the rivers falling into the Nile, and then come down the great stream until I reach the Mediterranean. I do not wish in the least to detract from the labours of Captains Speke and Grant, but I think there are other rivers or lakes far to the west of those they saw, and which fall into the Nile. In fact, I believe there is no proper source of the Nile, but that a certain number of rivers and lakes, rising somewhere near the equator, form what we call the Nile. Before leaving England I thought I would only try to reach seven or eight hundred miles inland, and there establish myself for a while amongst the "Sapadi;" but I have

now come to the conclusion that, if no obstacles prevent me from going further, I will push forward, and then be guided according to circumstances. It is a great undertaking, and I am perfectly aware of the dangers attending such an expedition. I know that perhaps I may never come back, or may not have bodily strength to accomplish what my heart desires; it may be my fate to die a poor, lonely traveller, but I will try my best, and see no disgrace if I fail. I know, and you know also, that I have no other aim than that of enlarging our knowledge of this unknown part of Africa. I shall be obliged to take about 100 men with me, and shall start in a few days. I have sent to the British Museum some specimens of natural history, among which are seven skeletons of the gorilla and six skins preserved in salt. There are also a very curious ant-eater, probably a new species, and two skeletons of the chimpanzee. Among the live stock I have embarked a live gorilla. A few days before the departure of the vessel I had three of these animals alive; one of them, an adult female, caught after being wounded: it was a fearful sight to see the large animal, bound hand and foot, screaming with rage. Captain Holder, of the *Cambria* of Bristol, saw the three alive, and I have, besides, taken photographs of two of them."

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2. *Journey to Kilima-ndjaro.* By the late RICHARD THORNTON, Esq.

THIS was a condensed account, from the voluminous MS. Journals of the late Mr. Richard Thornton, of the journey to Kilima-ndjaro, in which he accompanied the Baron von der Decken, as his scientific companion. The party left Mombas on the 29th of June, 1861, and proceeded first to the elevated country from which Mounts Killibassi and Kadiaro rear their peaks. This district is inhabited by the Wa-teita, a fierce tribe, who showed great hostility to the party, the fighting men assembling to the number of 200, and threatening the lives of the Baron and his two white companions. One of the principal objects of their stay at this point was, however, accomplished, namely, the determination of the altitude of Mount Kadiaro, which proved to be 4130 feet—a much lower elevation than that assigned to it by the missionary traveller Rebmann, which was 6000 feet. On leaving this district they diverged from the direct route and marched s.w. to the Paré Mountains, and thence, proceeding northerly towards Kilima-ndjaro, skirted the eastern shores of Lake Jipé, a sheet of water 20 miles in length, and in its wider parts,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles broad. The first attempt to ascend the snowy peaks was from Kilema, on the south-eastern slopes, whence